

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 049118
ORIGIN EUR-12

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NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:EMROWELL:MS

APPROVED BY S - PTARNOFF

EUR - MR. BARBOUR

S/S - MR. SHANKLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049118

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, (SOARES, MARIO)

SUBJ: MEETING BETWEEN AMBASSADOR THEMIDO AND THE
SECRETARY -- SOARES VISIT

1. PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR THEMIDO CALLED ON THE SECRETARY
MARCH 4 TO URGE AN INVITATION TO PRIME MINISTER SOARES TO
VISIT WASHINGTON, PREFERABLY IN CONNECTION WITH SOARES'
PLANNED TRIP TO NEW YORK TO RECEIVE AN AWARD FROM THE
INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS (ILHR). THEMIDO
SAID THE BEST DATE WOULD BE SOME TIME IN THE WEEK OF
MARCH 21-25, BUT APRIL WOULD BE A GOOD TIME ALSO.

2. THE SECRETARY SAID MARCH IS UNREALISTIC FOR HIM
BECAUSE OF VISITS BY RABIN AND CALLAGHAN, AND THE NEED
TO GET READY TO GO TO MOSCOW AT THE END OF THE MONTH
TO DISCUSS SALT AND MBFR. HOWEVER HE WOULD TALK WITH
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PAGE 02 STATE 049118

THE PRESIDENT ABOUT APRIL AND GET BACK IN TOUCH WITH
AMBASSADOR THEMIDO EARLY NEXT WEEK (MARCH 7-11).

3. THE SECRETARY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE BELONGED TO THE
ILHR AND SAID THE ORGANIZATION HAD ASKED HIM PERSONALLY
LAST YEAR TO MAKE THE PRESENTATION TO SOARES, BUT THAT
BECAUSE OF HIS NEW RESPONSIBILITIES HE HAD HAD TO DECLINE.

HE SAID HE REALIZES HOW AWKWARD IT WOULD BE FOR SOARES

TO COME TO NEW YORK WITHOUT ALSO SEEING THE PRESIDENT
AND THE SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON AND SUGGESTED THAT
THEMIDO ASK THE ILHR TO DEFER THE AWARD CEREMONY UNTIL
AFTER MARCH. THEMIDO SAID HE WOULD.

4. DURING THE CONVERSATION THEMIDO ALSO: (A) EMPHASIZED
THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CONSORTIUM AND THE CONTINUING NEED
FOR U.S. HELP; (B) EXPRESSED PORTUGAL'S DEEPEST
APPRECIATION FOR U.S. SUPPORT IN THE PAST; (C) NOTED
THE STRONG MEASURES TAKEN TO ATTAIN ECONOMIC RECOVERY,
INCLUDING THOSE OF FEBRUARY 25; (D) SAID SOARES WILL
FORMALLY REQUEST EC MEMBERSHIP AT THE END OF MARCH, A
MOVE SUPPORTED BY ALL PORTUGUESE PARTIES EXCEPT THE
COMMUNIST; AND (E) AFFIRMED THAT PORTUGAL'S EFFORTS TO
DRAW CLOSER TO EUROPE IN NO WAY DIMINISH THE COUNTRY'S
DESIRE TO MAINTAIN THE CLOSEST RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.

5. IN TERMS OF OTHER IMMEDIATE BILATERAL ISSUES,
THEMIDO NOTED THAT THE AZORES NEGOTIATIONS ARE PENDING;
THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT IS COORDINATING WITH AZOREAN
REPRESENTATIVES IN LISBON NOW ON A NEGOTIATING POSITION;
AND, PERHAPS THEMIDO WILL RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS TO RENEW
TALKS WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

6. THE SECRETARY CONCLUDED BY SAYING THE U.S. WANTS TO
DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO HELP PORTUGAL. WE ADMIRE THE
COURAGEOUS AND EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS MADE BY THE
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PAGE 03 STATE 049118

PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE. THE SECRETARY SAID
THEMIDO'S PRIDE IN THE RESPONSIBLE WAY THE PORTUGUESE
HAVE CONDUCTED THEIR ELECTIONS IS FULLY JUSTIFIED.
PRIME MINISTER SOARES HAS OUR HIGHEST ADMIRATION AND
REGARD.

7. FOREGOING IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY.
CHRISTOPHE

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Message Attributes

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